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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4402

CHRIS STEWART
2ND DISTRICT, UTAH

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FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

April 26, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair

Committee on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
2325-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member

Committee on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole,

I am requesting funding for Variant Science Training Program in fiscal year 2023.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Dixie State University, located at 225 South 700 East, St. George, UT 84770.

The funding will be used to develop the online curriculum for a professional certificate program to train and prepare variant scientists, update laboratory equipment, and acquire a faculty fellow to design and oversee the program at Dixie State University (soon to be renamed Utah Tech University). This would be a good use of taxpayer dollars because Variant science plays a critical role in clinical genetic laboratories, and yet, there are currently no formal training programs other than extensive on-the-job training. This would be a program offered online allowing participants to self-pace and work around existing jobs but will also include job-shadowing and hands-on lab experiences. This project will greatly support the workforce and development of Variant Science.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in the project.

Sincerely,

Chris Stewart
Member of Congress